



OUR REFERENCE:

V.P.171

COMMONWEALTH ARCHIVES OFFICE.

Outer Crescent,  
MIDDLE BRIGHTON, 3186.

3 July 1969.

Mr. G. Stevens,  
40 Grenfell Road,  
MOUNT WAVERLEY, Vic. 3149.

Dear Mr. Stevens,

I must apologise for the delay in answering your letter of 3 Aug. 1968. Under pressure of business and the effects of staff shortage, it escaped our attention.

Mr. Nunn was broadly correct regarding the Commonwealth's not assuming responsibilities in certain fields until some time after federation. Though a Commonwealth Department of Trade and Customs was established in 1901, the Lighthouse Branch was not staffed till 1913. In the meantime, references in the Commonwealth Gazette to local lighthouse-keepers continued to show them as officers of the Public Service of the State of Victoria.

Examination of our records has failed to discover any personal file relating to Mr. G. F. W. Stevens. This is not surprising as the period provided for its retention would have expired more than thirty years ago. The only other possibility is that there could be incidental mention of him in files relating to particular lighthouses. There are files of this kind in the group of papers which we know as MP.344 and I took note of any which had to do with Cliffy Island. Unfortunately, there are none which go back so far as 1915. In the case of Cliffy Island, our earliest references are to 1934.

I doubt that lighthouse-keepers ever appeared upon the Permanent Staff Lists of the Commonwealth Public Service. I checked the Lists published in August 1916 and September 1917 without success.

You are certainly welcome to go through our bound volumes of Commonwealth Gazettes if you still wish to do so. I imagine, however, that you have probably found it easier to work on sets kept at some more central location such as the State Library.

Please accept my sincere regrets that we have been so long in giving your enquiry attention.

Yours sincerely,

(T. M. Exley)

SENIOR ARCHIVIST, VICTORIA.